

Wisconsin Farm Numbers Stable

The number of farms in the state for 2005 remained the same as a year earlier at 76,500. Wisconsin land in farms decreased 1 percent to 15.4 million acres. The size of a farm averaged 201 acres, a reduction of 2 acres from 2004. The three smallest sales groups declined while the two largest economic classes grew in numbers. Farms that grossed \$250,000 - \$499,999 increased 300 to 4,400. Farms with agricultural sales of \$500,000 or more also rose 300 to 2,500. The most prevalent size group of \$1,000 - \$9,999 lost 300 farms to number 36,500 in 2005. Farms that grossed \$10,000-\$99,999 totaled 21,400, down 100. The middle group with sales of \$100,000 - \$249,999 declined 200 to 11,700 operations.

U.S. farms numbered 2.10 million, down 11,980 from the previous year. Land in farms dipped less so that the average size of a farm increased 1 acre to 444 acres. Nationally, land in farms totaled 933 million acres. Like Wisconsin, the three smallest groups of U.S. farms declined in numbers while the two groups grossing the most rose. Farms with sales of \$250,000 - \$499,999 numbered 90,040, up 1,060. Operations with gross sales of \$500,000 or more totaled 79,410 up 2,920 farms.

The south continued to have the most farms at 888,500. This area of the country experienced the biggest percentage decline in farm numbers at 1 percent. All areas lost farms, but the North Central region had the least change with a decrease of less than 1 percent. The North Central region, which includes Wisconsin, had the second greatest total number of farms at 785,300.

A farm is defined as any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year. Agricultural production includes: livestock and livestock products, crops, fruit, vegetables, greenhouse and nursery products, Christmas trees, fish, and government payments, including Conservation Reserve Program payments.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms

Year	Wisconsin			United States		
	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms
	Thous.	Acres	Mil acres	Thous.	Acres	Mil acres
1950	174.0	136	23.6	5,648	213	1,202
1955	155.0	150	23.2	4,654	258	1,202
1960	138.0	161	22.2	3,963	297	1,176
1965	124.0	173	21.4	3,356	340	1,140
1970	110.0	183	20.1	2,949	374	1,102
1975 1/	100.0	193	19.3	2,521	420	1,059
1980	93.0	200	18.6	2,440	426	1,039
1985	83.0	216	17.9	2,293	441	1,012
1990	80.0	220	17.6	2,146	460	987
1995	80.0	210	16.8	2,196	438	963
2000	77.5	206	16.0	2,167	436	945
2001	77.0	205	15.8	2,149	438	942
2002	77.0	204	15.7	2,135	440	940
2003	76.5	204	15.6	2,127	441	939
2004	76.5	203	15.5	2,113	443	936
2005	76.5	201	15.4	2,101	444	933

1/Estimates from 1975 on include any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Farms by Economic Sales Class Wisconsin, 2004-2005

Economic class gross value of sales	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average size of farms	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Number		Thousand acres		Acres	
\$1,000-\$9,999	36,800	36,500	2,900	2,900	79	79
\$10,000-\$99,999	21,500	21,400	3,900	3,700	181	173
\$100,000-\$249,999	11,900	11,700	3,400	3,200	286	274
\$250,000-\$499,999	4,100	4,400	2,600	2,800	634	636
\$500,000 & over	2,200	2,500	2,700	2,800	1,227	1,120
Total	76,500	76,500	15,500	15,400	203	201

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.